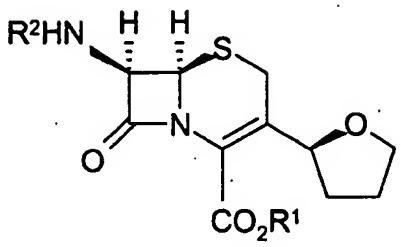
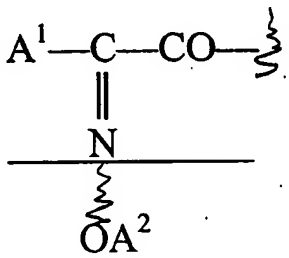
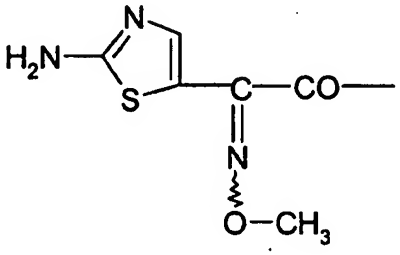
IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended): A process for preparing a 3-cyclic-ether substituted cephalosporin of the formula I:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the group CO_2R^1 is a carboxylic acid or a carboxylate salt; and R^2 has the formula





~~wherein~~

~~A^1 is selected from the group consisting of C_{6-10} aryl, C_{1-10} heteroaryl and C_{1-10} heterocyclic;~~

~~A^2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{6-10} aryl, C_{1-6} alkyl(CO)(C_{1-6})alkyl-O-, HO(CO)(C_{1-6})alkyl, mono-(C_{6-10} aryl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), di-(C_{6-10}aryl)(C_{1-6} alkyl), and tri-(C_{6-10}aryl)(C_{1-6}alkyl);~~